GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3240
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2000
PROBLEMS IN MANAGEMENT OF FOODGRAINS AND P.D.S.
SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether during a meeting, the representatives of Southern State Governments havediscussed problems faced in management of foodgrains and Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decisions taken during the meeting?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN)

(a), (b) & (c) : Yes, Sir. Initiative has been taken by Government of India to evolvea consensus by involving the State Governments in a debate on revamping the Public Distribution System (PDS) to make it efficient and better targetised in a transparent and accountable manner through out the country. Government of India convened a meeting with the Southern States under the aegis of Advisory Council on Foodgrains Management and Public Distribution an apex level body consisting of people`s representative of States and authorities of Central Government at Bangalore recently.

Issues addressed in the meeting relate to enhancement of allocation of foodgrains for BPL population, Central Issue Price (CIP), diversion of PDS commodities, involvement ofPanchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in functioning of PDS, adoption of Citizens` Charter for making the system more effective and foolproof etc. The zonal meetings of the Advisory Council with active participation of State Governments have given an opportunity to assimilate the thinking on broad spectrum of issues involved in management of foodgrains and Public Distribution System. Keeping in view the consensus for increasing the allocation of foodgrains for the population living below poverty line, the Government of India has recently announced an increase in allocation of foodgrains to the BPL population from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month in the Budget presented in the Parliament for the year 2000-2001.